

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2011 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, Lew,
McCabe, See, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: Commissioner Lefevre

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved to grant Commissioner Lefevre an excused absence for the September 15, 2011 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner See moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2011

Postponed to the October 20, 2011 Water Commission meeting.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

The Commission welcomed guest Jim Johnston.

7. NEW BUSINESS

**7A. CONSIDERATION OF WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2010-11**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich presented the Water Commission Annual Report for the 12-month period for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 included in the

material of record. He reviewed the purposes and goals of the Commission, and he provided a summary of the Commission's major activities and policy areas addressed during the year. He recommended that Commissioners provide comments or revisions and, upon approval by the Commission, the Annual Report would be submitted to City Council for acceptance within the next two weeks.

He informed Commissioners that Project Manager Dettle would provide a report on well development at the Yukon site at the next Water Commission meeting.

Responding to Chairperson McGee's inquiries, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Phase 5 expansion of the West Basin Water Recycling plant will cost \$60 million and that TMW purchases the recycled water. He added that the rates for this highly treated water are lower than, but are approaching, MWD rates, noting that recycled water is reliable but not a cheap source of water.

MWD Director Wright inquired about replenishment of the Basin and he explained that most replenishment now comes from artificial recharge from barrier water, adding that it flows eastward to groundwater wells and becomes drinking water after 20 years.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that the Capital Improvement Program is for new water sources and pipeline replacement.

Commissioner McCabe offered minor corrections to the Annual Report.

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved to conceptually approve the Fiscal 2010-11 Water Commission Annual Report for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lefevre).

7B. CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW OF WATER COMMISSION WORK PLAN AND ROLE OF COMMISSION AS ADVISORY BOARD TO CITY COUNCIL

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided a power point presentation borrowed from consultant Len Wood who facilitated in development of the Water Commission Work Plan in late 2004 and early 2005. He reviewed the basic City Council/Commission structure and working relationship. He noted that the Water Commission's primary function is to advise City Council on policies and programs, formulate recommendations, and be the community eyes and ears. He discussed the factors that contribute to a successful Commission as well as the respective roles, responsibilities, and duties of both the Commissioners and staff members. He reviewed what the Commission role does not include, the Chairperson role, and member responsibilities. He noted that the Water Commission's current Work Plan was submitted to and approved by City Council in May 2005 and was included in Attachment A of agenda packets. He advised that if the Work Plan still seems appropriate to Commissioners, no action needs to be taken and it could be accepted and filed.

Commissioner McCabe suggested that staff condense information that is presents to the Commission to make better use of time. He stated that he would like the

Commission to focus more on the City's Strategic Plan and seek ways to encourage greater public involvement.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich responded that water elements in the Strategic Plan address water reliability and diversification of water sources. He stated that many issues presented to the Commission, such as conjunctive use and legislative matters, could have major impacts on the City. He discussed upcoming events and programs that will effect and involve the community more.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright provided background and presented an update on MWD's Water Supply Conditions and Combined Reservoir Storage as of September 1, 2011. He reported that there are 1.5 million acre-feet of water in Northern California that MWD could bring south but is choosing to store most of it in the Central Valley to save energy costs. He noted that Lake Oroville is basically full and is extremely good water, adding that only Northern California water is put into Diamond Valley Lake because of the mussel problem in the Colorado River system. He stated that the Colorado River supply has 870,000 acre-feet available and that MWD is using intentionally created surplus to store it in Lake Mead. He mentioned that water elevation would increase even more in Lake Mead because of an equalization release from Lake Powell. He stated that Diamond Valley Lake is serving as a water bridge to send water through the inland feeder to San Diego to generate power.

Commissioner Deemer inquired where MWD plans to store water now that local storage is full, and MWD Director Wright advised that water could be stored in Lake Mead or San Luis reservoir, adding that conjunctive use could also be an option. He mentioned that Lake Powell was built in case of a 30-year drought.

9. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Public Works Director Beste reported that Metropolitan Water District programs were discussed at the September 2011 West Basin Water Association meeting. He stated that the Association is considering sending a letter to Signal Hill, Downey, and Cerritos stating its disapproval of their attempts to split the Basin assessment.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich noted that the Monthly Department Report for August 2011 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production in August 2011 was nearly 10% below production compared to August 2010. He noted the decline in water main breaks, pointing out that to date there have been 25 main breaks compared to 37 for last year. He stressed the importance of continuing to replace three to five miles of deteriorated or undersized mains per year. He stated that the Goldsworthy Desalter is operating well and that the membranes would be replaced in the next few months. Referring to Well #9, he stated that it is producing 220 acre-feet per month.

Public Works Director Beste noted that Well #9 is saving the City \$1.3 per year. He added that the Yukon site is 30% design complete and that staff is working with Torrance Unified School District regarding right-of-way issues.

11. ORALS

11A. MWD Director Wright stated that he is planning a water trip to the Bay Delta in April 2012.

11B. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed a Sierra Club Water Conservation Measures Scorecard rating the cities of Los Angeles and Orange counties, noting that Torrance received a "Good" score.

Commissioner McCabe suggested inviting a Sierra Club representative to a future Commission meeting.

11C. Chairperson McGee announced a Water Harvest Festival on October 8, 2011 at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:42 p.m., Commissioner See moved to adjourn the meeting to October 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Submitted November 17, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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